

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 11067 01 OF 02 051727Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /080 W
-----059303 051803Z /44

R 051709Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5814
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL MILAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 11067

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, VM
SUBJECT: CURRENT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY ON
VIETNAM

SUMMARY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) OFFICIALS SAY THEY
ARE LOOKING ACTIVELY AT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN
VIETNAM WITH VIEW TO PUBLISHING CRITICAL REPORT IF THEY
CAN BUILD SATISFACTORY CASE. OFFICIALS APPEARED WELL
INFORMED AND WERE INTERESTED IN GATHERING DETAILS ON
SPECIFIC CASES. END SUMMARY

1. VACATIONING FSO LACY WRIGHT (MILAN), WORKING THROUGH
EMBASSY LONDON POL SECTION, VISITED AI HEADQUARTERS HERE
TO ASK WHAT ORGANIZATION DOING CURRENTLY WITH REGARD TO
REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN VIETNAM. HE SPOKE
WITH THREE AI OFFICIALS OF ASIA SECTION INCLUDING
MICHAEL WILLIAMS, ABOUT 32, WHO FOLLOWS VIETNAM, AND
PETER HARRIS, SLIGHTLY YOUNGER.

2. WILLIAMS SAID AI FOLLOWING VIETNAM SITUATION CLOSELY
AND HE HIMSELF DEMONSTRATED FAIRLY GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 11067 01 OF 02 051727Z

VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS AS GLEANED FROM JOURNALISTIC REPORT-
ING, NHAN DAN STATEMENTS, AND AI CONVERSATIONS WITH
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MANY NON-
COMMUNIST VIETNAMESE AND OTHER SUSPECTED AI OF PRO-
HANOI BIAS FOR ITS CRITICISMS OF THIEU GOVERNMENT BUT
SAID CHARGE NOT TRUE. AI WAS STUDYING ALLEGED COMMUNIST
RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BUT THAT TOOK TIME TO PRESENT POORLY

DOCUMENTED REPORT WOULD INJURE ORGANIZATIONS CREDIBILITY.
AI HAD ALSO TO ASK ITSELF WHICH WAS BEST WAY TO RELIEVE SUFFERINGS OF UNJUSTLY CONDEMNED PRISONERS, AND QUIET REPRESENTATIONS TO HANOI MIGHT BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN PUBLIC DENUNCIATIONS. AFTER ALL, HANOI WAS INTERESTED IN AID, INVESTMENT, AND OTHER FORMS OF INTERNATIONAL APPROBATION, SO AI HAD SOME LEVERAGE TO MOVE REGIME IN RIGHT DIRECTION. PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF REGIME SHOULD ALWAYS BE CONSIDERED LAST RESORT.

3. THAT HAVING BEEN SAID, WILLIAMS INDICATED HE THOUGHT THERE WAS PLENTY WRONG IN VIETNAM. HE DID NOT THINK HIGHLY OF OLD GVN CRITICS LIKE CORA WEISS AND NOAM CHOMSKY WHO CONTINUE TO DEFEND HANOI'S CONDUCT. AND HE NOTED APPROVINGLY THAT ITALIAN AUTHOR (GIAI PHONG) AND JOURNALIST (DER SPIEGEL) TIZIANO TERZANI HAS TAKEN MORE CRITICAL LINE TOWARD VIETNAMESE REGIME SINCE HE MADE TRIP TO VIETNAM SOME TIME AGO.

4. QUESTIONED ABOUT TIMETABLE ON POSSIBLE VIETNAM REPORT, WILLIAMS SAID AI'S FIRST PRIORITY AT MOMENT WAS REPORT ON CHINA, DUE OUT IN DECEMBER. THEN, OVER NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, AI HOPED TO DO REPORTS ON ALL ASIAN COUNTRIES, WITH VIETNAM BEING AMONG MOST IMPORTANT. ONE PROBLEM WITH MOVING QUICKLY ON VIETNAM WAS THAT TRIP THERE TO SEE CONDITIONS FIRSTHAND WAS OUT OF QUESTION,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 11067 01 OF 02 051727Z

SINCE AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT PERMIT IT. ASKED WHY AI DID

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 11067 02 OF 02 051725Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /080 W
-----059290 051803Z /44
R 051709Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5815
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL MILAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 11067

NOT FORCE HANOI PUBLICLY TO REFUSE TO ALLOW AI VISIT,
WILLIAMS SAID THAT THAT IS BEING CONSIDERED.

5. WILLIAMS AND HARRIS SAID THEY ARE INTERESTED IN DETAILS OF ANY CASES OF VIETNAMESE "PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE". THEY STRESSED THAT SOUQUES ARE ASSURED COMPLETE ANONYMITY AND THAT AI WILL NOT PUBLICIZE CASE UNLESS SOURCE WISHES IT. OTHERWISE, MATERIAL USED FOR BACKGROUND. (WILLIAMS EXPLAINED ELABORATE SECURITY MEASURES AT AI OFFICES AS DESIGNED TO PROTECT MATERIAL GIVEN TO AI ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.) WILLIAMS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN CASES OF SAIGON LAWYER AND FORMER LOWER HOUSE DEPUTY TRAN VAN TUYEN AND OF ONE TRUONG VINH LAY, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS PROMINENT SENATOR UNDER DIEM.

6. COMMENT: AI APPEARS TO BE WORKING SERIOUSLY TOWARD REPORT THAT WOULD RECORD HANOI'S HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IF REGIME DOES NOT CHANGE WAYS, WHICH SEEMS UNLIKELY AT THE MOMENT. AI WOULD THEN PRESUMABLY USE POSSIBLE REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 11067 02 OF 02 051725Z

TO TRY TO GET HANOI TO IMPROVE AND, IF THAT DIDN'T WORK, PUBLISH. WRIGHT SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT CONSIDER WHETHER WE WISH TO FACILITATE FLOW OF SUITABLE MATERIAL INTO AI HANDS--EITHER NOW OR AT FUTURE DATE--IN ORDER TO HASTEN CRITICAL REPORT ON HANOI REGIME AND STRENGTHEN ITS CONCLUSIONS.

BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY, POLICIES, HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON11067
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770238-0458
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770792/aaaadcxdx.tel
Line Count: 160
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 09215171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DHA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1967917
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CURRENT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY ON VIETNAM SUMMARY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) OFFICIALS SAY
TAGS: SHUM, VM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/09215171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009